

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4110 would allow the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to continue its valuable work in helping to preserve the records of our Nation's history.

Since its formation in 1934, the commission, affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration, has complemented National Archives' work in protecting vital American documents.

Unlike the National Archives, which maintains Federal records, the commission assists non-Federal historical societies, nonprofit organizations, universities, and State and local governments.

In 1964, the commission began funding independent archival projects through its grants program, which provide an invaluable service to the Nation through the maintenance of its historical records. These projects include family papers, manuscripts, and other electronic records. The commission has been instrumental in preserving the historical works of such great American leaders as George Washington, John Adams, Henry Clay, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Last November, the commission awarded grants for 64 projects, totaling \$3 million. In addition, it proposed funding a 3-year, \$1.8 million initiative to help raise the level of archival expertise in the rapidly changing area of electronic record keeping.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission is the only national grant-making organization in the Nation whose sole focus is the preservation and publication of America's documentary history. The 15-member commission supports the professional development of archivists, documentary editors, and record keepers through fellowships, institutes, conferences, workshops, and other programs.

In addition, the commission has undertaken a number of projects that focus on the records of underdocumented groups, such as Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other ethnic and interest groups, such as the large Hispanic population in the United States, and various other social and political movements.

H.R. 4110 would reauthorize the appropriation of \$10 million, the same amount authorized for fiscal year 2001, for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

On April 4, 2000, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, on which the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) and I serve, held a legislative hearing on H.R. 4110. On April 5, 2000, the subcommittee marked up the bill by a voice vote and referred it to the full Committee on Government Reform. On May 18, 2000, the Committee on Gov-

ernment Reform, by voice vote, ordered the bill favorably reported to the House for its consideration.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4110, the legislation to reauthorize the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. This commission is the grant-making arm of the National Archives. It is charged with a very important role of preserving non-Federal records.

Every year grants are made to State and local governments, universities, libraries, historical societies, and other nonprofit institutions for the purpose of preserving important historical documents for years to come.

The Congress created this commission in the 1930s because it understood and recognized the importance of preserving American history, not only within the Beltway, but all across this United States. Proper and accurate historical documentation is essential to recording the history of our great democracy.

This commission has had an important job, and I am pleased to join with the gentleman from California (Chairman HORN) in cosponsoring this legislation which will reauthorize this appropriation through the year 2005.

The papers, the manuscripts and other artifacts preserved by grants from this commission define who we are as a people and as a Nation.

I want to commend Governor John Carlin, our National Archivist, for his leadership in this area. The former Governor of Kansas has done an outstanding job leading at the National Archives, and this grant program is one of the most effective tools that we have to continue the fine tradition of those who have worked diligently at the National Archives over our many years of history to be sure that we, as a Nation, preserve those things that are important to our heritage.

It is a pleasure for me to join with the gentleman from California (Chairman HORN), and I urge the House to adopt H.R. 4110.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4110, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2000

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1800) to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to ensure that certain information regarding prisoners is reported to the Attorney General, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1800

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. REPORTING OF INFORMATION.

Section 20104(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13704(a)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (1)—
 - (A) by inserting "(A)" after "(1)"; and
 - (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;
- (2) in paragraph (2), by striking "(2)" and inserting "(B)";
- (3) in paragraph (3)—
 - (A) by striking "(3)" and inserting "(C)";
 - (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and
 - (C) by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and
- (4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) such State has provided assurances that it will follow guidelines established by the Attorney General in reporting, on a quarterly basis, information regarding the death of any person who is in the process of arrest, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, State prison, or other local or State correctional facility (including any juvenile facility) that, at a minimum, includes—

- "(A) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased;
- "(B) the date, time, and location of death; and
- "(C) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1800.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his work on this bill. We have both been advocating this proposal for many years, and I am pleased that today we are one step

closer to bringing a new level of accountability to our Nation's correctional institutions, our prisons, in those instances in which individuals pass away while they are in custody.

H.R. 1800 is called the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000. It ensures that States report the deaths of individuals who die in custody, whether it be State or local. The bill requires each State that receives Truth in Sentencing funding to report on a quarterly basis the number of and circumstances surrounding deaths that occur during arrest and incarceration.

An estimated 1,000 men and women die questionable deaths each year while in police custody or in jail. An investigative article in the Asbury Park Press of New Jersey reported that a number of deaths which occur in State and local jails are listed as suicides but that such conclusions are often tainted by inadequate record keeping, investigative incompetence, and physical evidence that suggest otherwise. In addition, the study found that many of the individuals listed as suicides have been arrested for relatively minor offenses, reducing the likelihood that they would take their own lives.

One teenage boy who was found dead by hanging in an Arkansas jail had been arrested for a failure to pay a fine for underage drinking. Another individual in an Arkansas jail was found suffocated by toilet paper stuffed down his throat. No records exist as to why he was in custody, according to the Asbury Park Press story.

In any other atmosphere, unnatural deaths under questionable circumstances would not only be reported but would raise serious concerns. State and local jails and lockups should be no different. This legislation will provide openness in government and will bolster public confidence and trust in our judicial system. In addition, I believe that it will serve as a deterrent to future misconduct by wrongdoers who will know that someone will be monitoring their actions.

Three years ago, the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations Act directed the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice to determine the feasibility of creating a single source for annual statistics on in-custody deaths, including Federal, State and local incidents.

In March of 1998, the Department of Justice reported that this goal is achievable. Currently, statistics are gathered on an annual and a voluntary basis for Federal and State deaths and on a 5-year voluntary basis for county and local jails.

This bill directs the Attorney General to develop guidelines for the reporting of deaths in custody; and it requires that, at a minimum, the report include the name of the deceased, the gender of the deceased, the race and ethnicity of the deceased, the age of the deceased, the date and time and location of the death, and a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death.

The House Committee on Judiciary unanimously approved a similar provision as an amendment to H.R. 1659, the National Police Training Commission Act of 1999; but that bill has not been considered by the House.

Madam Speaker, I am offering a manager's amendment that makes some minor changes to the bill. The amendment has been cleared with the minority, and I am not aware of any opposition to the amendment.

The amendment simply changes the statutory cite to ensure this legislation amends the correct portion of the Code, and it adds process of arrest to the factors that must be reported about the deceased individual; and it includes a brief description surrounding the circumstances of death as part of the reporting requirement.

I strongly believe that the data gathered under this act will provide us with a better understanding about our Nation's correctional system, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) in commending H.R. 1800, the Death In Custody Act of 2000, to the Members of the House.

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We have worked together in developing this issue for the past 5 years, and I even worked with Senator TIM HUTCHINSON from Arkansas on this issue when he was a Member of the House.

This bill simply requires that deaths in State and local police custody be reported to the attorney general. A similar measure was adopted by the House on a voice vote without opposition in the 1995 Crime Bill, but it was adjusted in conference to simply require this Department of Justice to study the feasibility of requiring localities to report deaths in custody. The Department has now said that reporting deaths in custody is feasible. Of course, I would hate to think that there are any jurisdictions with so many deaths in custody that it would not be feasible to report them.

Dating back to my experiences as a State legislator, I have always been concerned that there was no national system for accounting for deaths in law enforcement custody. As detailed in an exhaustive, year-long investigative report by the Asbury Press in New Jersey, about 1,000 such deaths occur each year. Many of these deaths occur under suspicious circumstances. While most are listed as "suicides," many, the Asbury Press reports, are "tainted with racial overtones, good-ole-boy conspiracies and coverups, or investigative incompetence." The problem is that, with no one looking at these deaths from a systematic point of view, we do not know whether there is any pattern

or practice relating to such deaths nor whether there is any training needed amongst law enforcement officials which could limit such occurrences or anything else.

In fact, without such information, the debate on the issue is relegated to: "There's a problem; No, there isn't; Yes, there is," with both sides yelling at each other and little or no actual information being the basis of the discussion.

Regular reports of deaths in custody will allow us to get a handle on the nature and extent of what I believe to be a serious problem; we just do not know the extent. Let us hope that, at a minimum, the knowledge that a report is required to the Justice Department of all deaths in custody, and something brief about their circumstances, will discourage the misconduct, or questionable conduct, against those in custody by their custodians. And, furthermore, to the extent there may be common elements to these deaths, we will be in a much better position to prevent them in the future.

This is a modest proposal, and I urge Members of the House to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1800, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO KANSAS AND MISSOURI METROPOLITAN CULTURE DISTRICT COMPACT

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4700) to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4700

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT TO COMPACT.

The Congress consents to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact entered into between the State of Kansas and the State of Missouri. The compact reads substantially as follows:

"KANSAS AND MISSOURI METROPOLITAN CULTURE DISTRICT COMPACT

"ARTICLE I. AGREEMENT AND PLEDGE

"The states of Kansas and Missouri agree to and pledge, each to the other, faithful cooperation in the future planning and development of the metropolitan culture district,